Executive Steering Groups have also been set up which provide for greater interaction between the Army, Navy and the Air Force of the two countries.

Similarly, with Russia, India has always had a very close defence relationship and much of the arms and equipment of the Indian Armed Forces have been acquired from Russa. The defence relationship with Russia is also an ongoing process. To formalise this defence relationship with Russia, an Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation was set up in October, 2000. This Commission and its Working Subgroups meet on a regular basis to review all the important issues in the defence relationship of the two countries.

Removal of the US embargo on supply of military equipments to India

1794. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that United States of America has removed the embargo on supply of military equipment to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, what is the nature of equipment that India proposes to import from the U.S.A.;

(d) what is the stage of negotiations;

(e) what is the volume of purchase in rupees; and

(f) whether the US has agreed to upgrade the sea King helicopter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the United States of America has lifted the sanction on supply of military equipment to India. While the sanctions have been lifted, each case for supply of military

equipment would still have to follow the relevant rules and procedures of the US Government.

(c) to (f) Various Options relating to import of equipment from the U.S.A. are being considered. These proposals are still under consideration, and no price negotiations have been initiated. U.S. has indicated its intent to continue product support for export licenses required for the Sea King helicopters.

Notification under Official Language Rules

†1795. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Defence has been notified under Rule 10(4) of the Official Language Rules;

(b) if so, the number of sections in the Ministry which have been notified under Rule 8(4) of the Official Language Rules to do all their official work in Hindi;

(c) whether all such sections so notified really do their prescribed work in Hindi; and

(d) if not, the action being initiated against them to ensure compliance of the Official Language Rules?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Orders under rule 8(4) of the Official Languages Rules, have been issued for 18 sections of the Ministry for doing most of the work on certain subjects in Hindi.

(c) Yes, to the extent as explained in (b) above.

(d) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.